

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please combine and revise the five paragraphs under the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" into three paragraphs as follows:

A | This application is (a) a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/569,761, "Channel Gain Control for an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Laurence J. Newell and James F. Coward, filed May 12, 2000; (b) ~~This application is also a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/816,242, "Through-timing of Data Transmitted across an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by David A. Pechner, et al., filed March 23, 2001; which is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/571,349, "Through-timing of Data Transmitted across an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by David A. Pechner and Laurence J. Newell, filed May 16, 2000;~~ and (c) ~~This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/273,833, "High-Speed Optical Signal in an Optical Frequency Division Multiplexing System," by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed March 6, 2001; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/251,893, "Non Service Interrupting Hot-Swap of Expansion Cards in an Optical Frequency Division Multiplexing System", by Laurence J. Newell and David A. Pechner, filed Dec. 6, 2000; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/211,849, "Control Channel for Optical Communication Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing", by David A. Pechner, et al., filed June 15, 2000; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/209,020, "Optical Communications Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed June 1, 2000.~~

Al Cont.

This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~www~~09/854,246, "Synchronizing Nodes in an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Laurence J. Newell, filed on even date herewith; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~zzzzzz~~09/854,153, "Channel Gain Control for an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Laurence J. Newell and James F. Coward, filed on even date herewith.

---

The subject matter of all of the foregoing is incorporated herein by reference.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]